

## Cell Phone Policy

### **Conecuh County Schools Wireless Communication Device Policy**

In accordance with the FOCUS Act and Alabama law, Conecuh County Schools adopts the following policy regarding student use of wireless communication devices during the instructional day:

#### **1. Definition of Wireless Communication Devices**

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to: cellular phones, tablets, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, AirPods, or any other portable electronic device capable of exchanging voice, messaging, or data communication.

#### **2. Student Possession and Use**

- Students may bring wireless communication devices to school.
- During the instructional day—including class periods, transitions, lunch, and all other times as defined by the school calendar—devices must be turned off and stored away from the student's possession (not in pockets, shoes, etc.). Acceptable storage locations include lockers, vehicles, backpacks, purses, gym bags, or other designated storage areas.
- Devices may not be used, operated, or accessed at any time during the instructional day including on the bus, except as provided below.

#### **3. Exceptions**

Use, operation, or possession of wireless communication devices is permitted only:

- When required by a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP or IELP), Section 504 Plan, or Individualized Health Plan.
- For educational or learning purposes under staff supervision. *A teacher must have prior permission from the principal before authorizing students to use cell phones or electronic communication devices for instructional purposes or any reason.*
- During an emergency that threatens the life or safety of any person.

#### **4. Board Not Responsible for Devices**

Conecuh County Schools is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any wireless communication device brought onto campus by a student.

#### **5. Consequences for Violations**

Violations of this policy will be addressed according to the Conecuh County Schools Code of Conduct. Penalties may include confiscation of the device, parent notification, detention, suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary actions.

#### **6. Searches**

School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication

device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules. The nature and extent of such examination will be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

#### **7. Superintendent Authority for Additional Procedures**

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement any additional rules or guidelines necessary to carry out this policy and its exceptions.

#### **8. Staff Responsibilities**

All employees are responsible for enforcing this policy and reporting violations in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Consistent compliance is expected from all staff members.

#### **9. Notification**

This policy will be distributed to students, parents, faculty, staff, and the Alabama State Board of Education. Updates will be communicated as necessary.

#### **10. Questions**

Any questions or requests for clarification about this policy should be directed to school administrators.

By adopting this policy, Conecuh County Schools seeks to foster a safe, focused, and productive learning environment for all students.